

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/616,140

Examiner

Steven Blount

Applicant(s)

COLEMAN, DAVID ALLEN

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 6/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Peter Manzo on 6/20/06.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The changes made to the claims overcome the closest prior art of record, USPN 6285661, because the "data stream splitter" 38 in Zhu et al is not "generated", as required by line 5 of claim 7; nor does the splitter manager "fork(s) a copy of itself", as required by line 10 of claim 9.


5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Blount whose telephone number is 571 - 272 - 3071. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached at 571-272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

SB



6/20/06

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein output from the application data stream is shared by the device and the other devices using a data stream splitter.
 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data stream splitter is dynamically constructed to provide shared access to the application data stream.
 4. (Canceled)
 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein output received by the data stream splitter from the application data stream is sent to the pseudo-terminal and data received by the pseudo-terminal from the device is sent to the data stream splitter.
 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving input to the application data stream includes:
 - cycling through entries in a data stream splitter table to identify entries associated with the data stream splitter; and
 - cyclically providing the device and the other devices access to the application data stream based on the cycling through the entries in the data stream splitter table.
 7. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of ~~claim 1~~ communicating between a plurality of devices, further comprising:
 - establishing a pseudo-terminal for each of the plurality of devices, wherein the pseudo-terminal facilitates communication between each of the plurality of devices and an application data stream;
 - generating a data stream splitter to handle access to the application data stream if the application data stream is not already being handled by another data stream splitter; ~~[[and]]~~
 - adding an entry to a data stream splitter table for ~~[[the]]~~ a device within the plurality of devices and the data stream splitter;
 - receiving, from the device, input to the application data stream;
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receiving an output from the application data stream based on the received input and input from other devices within the plurality of devices; and
providing the output to the device and the other devices at substantially a same time, wherein only the output from the application data stream is shared by the device and the other devices.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the receiving input to an application data stream, receiving output from an application data stream, and the providing steps are performed by a data stream splitter manager.

9. (Previously presented) A method of communicating between a plurality of devices, comprising:
 receiving, from a device within the plurality of devices, input to an application data stream;
 receiving an output from the application data stream based on the received input and input from other devices within the plurality of devices; and
 providing the output to the device and the other devices at substantially a same time, wherein only the output from the application data stream is shared by the device and the other devices;
 wherein the receiving input to an application data stream, receiving output from an application data stream, and the providing steps are performed by a data stream splitter manager; and
 wherein, when the data stream splitter manager receives a request for access to the application data stream from the device, the data stream splitter manager forks a copy of itself to handle the access to the application data stream for that device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data stream splitter manager is transparent to a user of the device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data stream splitter manager includes a graphical user interface.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, further comprising storing data from the data stream in a buffer, wherein when the device is first provided access to the data stream, the contents of the buffer are streamed to the device.

13-49. (Canceled)